

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 RSC-01 /029 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:LAMUROS/LM
APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE
NEA/PAB:LBLESSER

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R 131926Z JUN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMCONSUL BOMBAY

UNCLAS STATE 125976

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, BG
SUBJECT: INTERESTED PARTY: MESSAGE FOR ESSO EASTERN

REF: DACCA 2614

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO BROWN OF ESSO EASTERN;
DACCA, AND NEFF OF ESSO EASTERN, BOMBAY.
RE HOLIDAY ARTICLE MATTER:

AAA. WE SUGGEST YOU TELL MINISTER OR SECRETARY THAT WE ARE
NOT SOURCE OF LEAK AND THAT, EXCEPT FOR STATEMENT IN BBB
BELOW, ALL QUERIES FROM THE OUTSIDE WILL BE REFERRED TO THE
MINISTRY FOR COMMENT.

BBB. QUERIES FROM PRESS SHOULD BE ANSWERED AS FOLLOWS:

WE ARE NOT IN ANY ACTIVE STAGE OF NEGOTIATION WITH GOB,
ALTHOUGH SOME DISCUSSIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE REGARDING THE
POSSIBILITY OF A TRANSFER OF ESSO OPERATIONS. WE SUGGEST
THAT IF FURTHER INFORMATION IS DESIRED, QUESTIONS BE
IRECTED TO THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCY.

CCC. SUGGESTED RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS OF EMPLOYEES
INCLUDING UNION LEADERSHIP ARE:
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111. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH GOB HAVE TAKEN PLACE CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF A TRANSFER TO OWNERSHIP OF COMPANY OPERATION.

222. SUCH A TRANSFER AS WE ENVISION IT, WOULD BE THE TRANSFER OF AN ONGOING BUSINESS.

333. THE WELFARE OF OUR STAFF AND THEIR CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS OF SERVICE ARE UPPERMOST IN OUR MINDS, AND THIS POINT HAS BEEN EMPHASIZED IN OUR TALKS WITH GOB.

444. ESSO REASONS FOR WISHING TO NEGOTIATE INCLUDE OUR COMPANY FORECAST THAT OUR BUSINESS IN BANGLADESH DOES NOT OFFER, IN THE LONG TERM, PROSPECTS OF EFFICIENT USE OF THE COMPANY RESOURCES, NOR DOES IT OFFER THE PROSPECT OF OUR EARNING A REASONABLE RATE OF RETURN ON OUR SHAREHOLDERS INVESTMENTS.

555. FURTHERMORE, THE COMPANY BELIEVES THAT THE CONTINUATION AS A 100 PER CENT OWNED BRANCH OPERATION IS AN ANACHRONISM IN THE CONTEXT OF GOB'S STATED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPIRATIONS. GOB'S CURRENT FIVE YEAR PLAN CALLS FOR COMPLETE GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF AN INTEGRATED OIL INDUSTRY.

666. CURRENTLY, ESSO OBTAINS ITS FUEL PRODUCTS FROM GOB DIRECTIVE, AND SELLS SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS TO GOB ENTITIES.

DDD. ALSO SUGGEST YOU TRY TO ASCERTAIN SOURCE OF LEAK. SUGGEST YOU SEE HOWDA ON THIS. SIGNED CASE/SEITZ, 78/79, ESSO EASTERN HOUSTON.

EEE. BACKGROUND FOR NEFF, BOMBAY: JUNE 9 ISSUE OF HOLIDAY, A Dacca WEEKLY PUBLICATION, CARRIED ARTICLE ON ESSO NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOB TO SELL ASSETS. BROWN ASKED FOR ADVICE ON HANDLING. THE ABOVE IS RESPONSE. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, NATIONALIZATION, NEGOTIATIONS, PRESS RELEASES, NEWS LEAKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE125976
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LAMUROS/LM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740154-0171
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740647/aaaaboiw.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DACCA 2614
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERESTED PARTY: MESSAGE FOR ESSO EASTERN
TAGS: ENRG, BG, ESSO EASTERN
To: DACCA BOMBAY
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005